

**Much Ado About Nothing.**—Some two or three weeks since, we, at the request of one of our most worthy citizens, inserted a paragraph in this paper, to the effect that a negro boy had run away from his employer, and that a reward of \$25 would be paid for his recovery. At this, the hysterical Nashville Press and Times "dies off the handle," and vainly attempts to ridicule the idea of offering a reward for an absconding negro boy who had entered into a written agreement to remain with his employer until he was twenty-one years of age. If the reward had been offered for the apprehension of a white boy precisely obligated as the negro was, we venture to say that the Press and Times would have failed to make mention of the affair at all. The self-concocted editor of the paper referred to inquires: "Where is the authority to come from that will return him?" Of all non-sensical questions ever put to the readers of a public Journal the one just quoted is the silliest. It little becomes the organ of negro equality to thus exhibit its ignorance of the responsibilities that rest upon its chosen people. Let the *sapient* champion of Sambo and Sue seek out the agent of the freedmen's bureau, and if that official fails to furnish the information so lacking, most any newsboy around the streets of his city will tell him that the same law which protects minors of the white race protects minors of the black race, and that the same law furnishes abundant protection to the interests of the party to whom a minor is bound for a term of years! So much for the "Holy Horror" of the paper that insinuates that the people of Harlema have not yet learned that slavery was abolished.

Since the above was written we have received the following communication:

To the Editor of the Bolivar Bulletin:

Sir, I offer the reward in your paper of the 17th for a boy Anderson. He is young, inexperienced and entirely uneducated. I offered the \$25.00 to get his services, but to protect him from the evil influence of men among whom he would, necessarily be thrown in Memphis. He did not leave me, but a friend of mine, and I thought he would be willing to remain at my house and stay out his time. It was for the negro boy's sake the reward was offered. If the Editor of the Press and Times wishes to know how I regard slavery he can easily learn. Every union man of any responsibility, can tell him. My negroes all wish to remain another year with me, but I have found out that such as are hunting for cause of quarrel, not to quarrel into and see who is the true friend of the freedmen. I would not publish and be responsible, morally, for such a base, unmitigated slander as he puts forth for all the negroes I once owned. I shall look with interest for an answer, and if not made I deem the Editor of the Press and Times as a man attempting to injure me upon unfair grounds, and therefore unworthy of all notice, unless he should meet me and say in words what he has placed in print. Hoping this will be sufficient, I remain,

Your ob't serv't,

M. T. POLK.

**TERRIBLE ACCIDENT.**—A most deplorable accident occurred on the Memphis and Charleston railroad last Thursday night a few miles east of Corinth, by which six persons were killed, one mortally wounded, and several others seriously injured. It seems that the passenger train was behind time, and its conductor, Mr. Slater, endeavored to reach Corinth before the eastward bound freight train left that station; and the conductor of the latter train thinking that the former one would lay over at the next switch, started on his journey. When rounding a curve the two trains met. The collision was terrible, as both were thundering along at schedule time. The locomotives, tenders, and baggage cars were smashed to pieces, and all that was of a combustible nature about them ignited and was utterly destroyed, together with the mails, express freight and baggage. The persons injured or killed, were railroad employees. None of the passengers, we learn, were injured. Conductor Slater had both his legs broken and was otherwise injured. His life is despaired of. Among the killed was the baggage master, whose name, together with that of the other unfortunate, we have been unable to ascertain. All of the baggage belonging to the passengers was consumed.

**HIGHLY PROBABLE.**—Of late, much has been said about the franchise law and negro suffrage, and since the re-assembling of the legislature several propositions have been put to the test, all of which, it seems have met with but little or no favor except that one which proposes to extend the right of suffrage to negroes, while it excludes from the polls all whites who cannot vote under the present law. We think it highly probable that the extreme radical programme will be acted out so far as the legislature is concerned.

**MR. THURLOW WOOD** has been converted, and Hon. John Morrissey, member of Congress elect from the Fifth District of New York, has manifested an awakening of religious interest in his mind. The other day he presented to the church the sum of \$800.—*Exchange.*

Would it not have been better if the Hon. John Morrissey had given the \$800 to his destitute sister? If reports be true, she was found in the city of Chicago a few days ago in a dying condition, brought on by starvation.

The highest judicial tribunal in Maryland has sustained the action of Gov. Swann, in removing the racially Police Commissioners of Baltimore. It is to be hoped that now the villainous rascals Judge Bond, will be brought to a strict account. Maryland is indeed gloriously redeemed. How long shall Tennessee and Missouri yet endure the horrors of a political nightmare?—*Nashville Gazette.*

Just so long as they are tyrannized over by a set of upstarts who were thrown to the surface by the misfortunes of war, and from whose meanness we pray the good Lord to deliver us.

A Philadelphia dispatch says: "Our business men are looking for a panic soon. Several large dry goods houses are reported just hanging by the eyelids. The decline in the prices of imported goods and provisions continues, and threatens disastrous effects to the speculators."

All the free States are now committed to the Constitutional amendment, and all the Southern States against it. This, says the Louisville Democrat, may be a cause of congratulation to the Radicals, as it prevents the spectacle of a division of the country upon a defined line. To others the prospect will not appear so inviting. A country thus actually and decidedly divided upon an irritating question is not in a fair way for a nation. The dominant party do not appear capable of seeing. They do not appear to know that the success of such a policy is in reality a defeat of the Union; or knowing it, they do not appear to care much about the matter.

We do not anticipate, as some have anticipated, for which there was a reason owing to the violent expressions of the Radicals, that it will result in another conflict. We do not believe either section wants this; but the very fact of a broad line of demarcation is of itself ominous. Year by year the division will widen and deepen. Each section suffering continually irritation from the impossibility of legislating advantageously, owing to the excited feelings, will finally come to look upon the ligament that binds them together as unnatural. Unable to sit in terms of agreement, and neither section being willing to yield, it will be seriously questioned if they cannot do better apart. We have no hesitation in saying that there are much worse evils than a division of the Union. An unnatural Union, in which one section has power to oppress the other, and which does oppress it, is not desirable. It is not the extent of territory, but the freedom of the people, which is most desirable. When a government fails in giving this partially, it has failed of its end. We do not think the right or wrong of the amendment worth much discussion. The trouble lies in the fact that one section makes it a *sine qua non*, which the other as decidedly declines to accept. If both remain firm, as we have reason to expect they will, the hope of a *bona fide* Union is impossible. There is no political union in the American sense, where one rules and the other suffers. If we cannot do better than this, the time will come when the people, wearied out with the continual quarreling and wrangling, will, for the peace of both, consent to a separation. We regard the Radical success as tending to this, if not sinning at it. If our opponents rejoice at it they rejoice the destruction of the Union.

**TENNESSEE LEGISLATURE.**—On the 24th inst. in the lower House, Mr. Biggs introduced the following bill: That hereafter it shall be sufficient proof of loyalty to take and subscribe to the oath of allegiance to the Government of the United States, and to support the Constitution of Tennessee; on the presentation of which oath, the Commissioner of Registration shall issue to the applicant a certificate to vote. Passed the first reading and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

The bill making it unlawful for billiard table keepers to allow minors to play in their establishments, passed third reading.

**APPROACHING DISSOLUTION.**—In the State Senate, on the 26th ult. Mr. Thompson offered joint resolution No. 8, as follows:

Whereas, This General Assembly adjourned on the 27th day of May, 1896, to meet on the 5th day of November, 1896, to wind up the unfinished business of the General Assembly, and adjourn *sine die* on the 10th day of December, 1896; therefore be it

Resolved, That no new business shall be introduced after the 1st day of December, 1896, as it is the judgment of this body that the term expires on that day.

The resolution was laid over under the rule.

In the lower House on the day mentioned above Senate bill authorizing county courts to levy and collect a tax for the purpose of grading and improving public highways intersecting with railroads, passed third reading.

The bill to increase the salary of the Judges of the State, after being discussed at both houses, was lost by a vote of ayes 20 to nays 30.

A call for a State Republican Union convention, to meet at Nashville, February 23d, 1897, has been made by the big dogs of the black and-tan species.

**MINUTES.**—The proceedings of the Ninth Annual meeting of the Unit Association of Missionary Baptists held with Walnut Grove Church, Hardean County, Sept. 8, 9, and 10, 1896, has been printed and bound in pamphlet form and is now in the hands of D. Thurn, of this place, for distribution.

**NO MAILS.**—Since the change in schedule time on the M. C. railroad, our people have been shabby treated by the mail agents. We have not received any of our exchanges since last Saturday night. Mail trains from the south arrive here at 12 o'clock at night, instead of 5:20 p. m. as heretofore. This change may be of great advantage to others, but it's a—on Bolivar.

**COURT CORREL.**—This court, John H. Bills chairman, will convene at the court room on next Monday.

**WEATHER.**—The weather has been very unfavorable for farmers during the past week, and heavy rains have fallen, which caused the Hatchie river and its tributaries to rise quite rapidly.

"Cadence," the Nashville correspondent of the Missouri Republican, thus notifies the people of St. Louis of the assembling of the Tennessee legislature:

At last this remarkable body, after waiting till it could pack itself with members loyal to Billy Brownlow, acquired a quorum to do it. It will "run the machine." If your readers wish in advance, to know its position, with reference to political matters in general, I refer them to Dan Mable's guess as to the physical position of one who wagged him twenty dollars he could not guess it, with the doors shut between them, and the key-hole stopped. The fellow placed a table in the centre of the floor, and then stood upon his head on the centre of the table. Dan guessed the position was that of a—d fool; and the judges on examination gave Dan the stakes.

The official majority for Governor Salisbury, of Delaware, is 1,516; that for Nicholson (Dem.) for Congress is 1,498. The Legislature is more than two-thirds Democratic. This State, with Maryland and Kentucky, prevents the adoption of the constitutional amendment.

**NO MORE NATIONAL BANKS.**—We are to have no additional National Banks. The full amount of bonds upon which, by the limitation of the law, currency can be issued, has been received at the office of the Controller of the Currency. Three hundred millions of dollars is the sum specified, and in order to prevent parties ambitious of starting new banks from procuring disappointment for themselves, it is announced that no further deposits of bonds will be received. The Philadelphia Inquirer says: "We have thus reached the limit of the expansion of the currency, and it may be assumed that we are at the topmost point of high prices. As the legal tenders are being retired at the rate of four millions a month, and other amounts are being reduced by the operations of the Treasury, it will follow that henceforth the amount of currency in circulation will be constantly decreasing. The only chance for a contrary state of affairs is that Congress may, at the next session, increase the amount of banking capital. No doubt efforts will be made to that end, but the Secretary of the Treasury will be opposed to them, and it is doubtful whether a majority of the members of Congress will be willing to ratify the scheme."

**Fenian Rumors.**—The New York Tribune's Dublin correspondent says that the political excitement has run to an alarming height in Ireland. Every town and village has its quota of military, and gunboats are scattered all over the Irish coast. These measures plainly bespeak the apprehension of the fulfillment of Mr. Stephens' promise. His last speech in America has been published in several Irish journals, and caused quite a political fever. The Irish people seem to have too implicit confidence in his sincerity and determination. Among all classes the conviction grows that we are on the eve of startling and terrible events.

The Fenian organization throughout the country is in a high state of activity. Its committees are truly in constant and the Fenians are shaped for a fierce and bloody struggle.

**Scene at the Counting Room of a Morning Newspaper.**

Enter a man of Teutonic tendencies, considerably the worse for last night's spree. Teuton.—(To the man at the desk) "If you please, sir I want der baper mit dis morning. He was handed a paper, and after looking it over in a confused way he said:

"Will you be so good as ter read de names vat don't have de cholera any more so soon shut now, and see if Carl Geisenkoepfflein has got 'em?"

The man at the desk very obligingly read the list, the Teuton listening with trembling attention, wiping the perspiration from his brow meanwhile, in great excitement.

When the list was completed, the name of Carl Geisenkoepfflein, it well no matter about the whole name, it was that the Teuton's face brightened up, and he exclaimed:

"You not find 'em?"

Clerk.—"No such name there, sir."

Teuton.—(Sighing) him seemly by the head.—"This ish nice—this ish some fun—that ish my name I pin trunk as never vas, and by tam! I vas fraid I vas gone mit der cholera, and didn't know it. Mine Got! I vas scart!"

They have a special law in Mississippi to put a stop to cotton stealing in the five counties of Aute, Wilkison, Claiborne, Adams and Jefferson. It forbids the sending of cotton to market "otherwise than in bales put up in the usual way," and makes the sending of cotton "in loose bales, sacks and bundles," *prima facie* proof that it has been stolen.

The offending party is subject to arrest and fine; and the cotton, if condemned as stolen, is to be returned to the owner, or if no owner is found, sold, and one-fourth of the net proceeds of the sale to the owner making the seizure, and the remaining three-fourths paid into the treasury of the county. The offender, on conviction, is made punishable for petit or grand larceny, according to the amount in value of the stolen cotton. There has been a trial under this law lately in Adams county, resulting in a conviction.

While it is Christianity which is to carry all before it, it is not the Christianity of books, nor even of mere preaching, much less of an empty profession, but the Christianity of life. It is humility, not as preached, but as practiced. It is contrition, not as depicted, not as incultured, but as beheld in men on whose carriage may be seen written "Excelsior." It is mercy embodied. It is heart-purity in flesh and blood. It is peace incarnate. This may-sister manifestation of a divine life in man, mixing with their fellows of like passions, is the divinely ordained specific for arresting the progress of human corruption, diffusing health and sweetness through it, and irradiating it with the brightening and gladdening beams of heavenly light.

A Washington correspondent says: Parties who have conversed with Secretary Seward within a few days, state that he declared that the policy of granting universal suffrage, to be followed by the adoption of universal suffrage, is destined to be the basis upon which restoration will be finally completed. He agrees, however with the President, that it belongs exclusively to States to regulate the question of suffrage.

The last Congress stood Republican 150, Democrats 43, leaving a Republican majority of 107. The vote will not vary much from this in the next Congress.

**New Advertisements.**

**STOLEN.**—From the residence of Thompson Higgs, near Hickory Valley, on the 22d of November, 1896, a small mare, about 12 or 13 years old, medicine, was lost. She was white, with a little black, and a white blaze on her face. A reward of \$25 will be given for the recovery and delivery of the mare, and \$10 for the apprehension of the thief. THOMPSON HIGGS, Hickory Valley, Hardean Co., Tenn.

**DECEASED.**—J. K. HUTCHINSON, Of Memphis, Tenn. SEAY & HUTCHINSON, Cotton Factors, And Commission Merchants, OFFICE WITH GREENWALD & LANE, No. 230 Main Street, Memphis.

**Liberal advances made on consignments. All Orders.**

**S. B. Williamson, N. Hill, Y. Fontain, Late Hill & Fontain.**

**Williamson, Hill & Co. Cotton Factors, Wholesale Grocers**

**AND Commission Merchants,**

**No. 326 Front Street,**

**Memphis, Tenn.**

**Between Monroe and Union Streets,**

**Memphis, Tenn.**

**Orders solicited.**

**GRAIG & CO.,**

**Wholesale and Retail Seed Store,**

**379 Main Street, Memphis,**

**Tenn.**

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**Read This**

**FLEMING & USSERY**

**GROCERIES,**

**Plantation and Family**

**SUPPLIES.**

**South side of the Public Square, Bolivar.**

**FLEMING & USSERY**

Take pleasure in announcing to their friends and the public generally that they have

**Just Opened**

an extensive Grocery House in connection with their Dry Goods Establishment, and are now prepared to furnish Plantations with anything they may need in the shape of Dry Goods, Hardware, Boots, Shoes, Hats and Caps, and

**Groceries.**

**WE PROPOSE TO SELL GROCERIES**

**At Memphis Prices!**

With freight to this place added:

Below we mention a few only of the articles we have in store

**SUGAR,**

**COFFEE, MOLASSES,**

**WHITE FISH,**

**MACKEREL—in kits and barrels,**

**BACON, LARD, FLOUR, RICE,**

**CHEESE,**

**CHOICE BUTTER,**

**CONFECIONERIES—all kinds,**

**RASINS, FIGS, ALMONDS,**

**FILBERTS,**

**FRESH PEACHES,**

**PICKLES, OYSTERS,**

**SARDINES, ORANGES,**

**FINE FRENCH BRANDY**

**AND WHISKY**

For medicinal purposes,

**SCOTCH ALE, CHAMPAGNE, etc., etc.**

We also continue to keep a large supply of

**Bagging and Rope, Iron Ties**

**AND**

**Kanawha Salt.**

It is our determination to keep our stock of Groceries complete at ALL TIMES, and hope, by adhering to LOW AND UNIFORM PRICES, to merit and receive a liberal patronage.

**Nov. 24m3) FLEMING & USSERY.**

**HARRY WEATHERS'S**

**SALOON,**

No. 31 Jefferson Street,

In the Senate Building,

**Memphis, Tenn.**

**J. H. WAGGENER & CO.**

**MERCHANT**

**TAILORS**

Wholesale and Retail Dealers in

**Fine Ready Made Clothing**

**AND**

**Furnishing Goods,**

Clark's Marble Block,

Main Street—294—Main Street

**Memphis, Tenn.**

We call the attention of purchasers to our

**CLOTHING!**

and assure them that we can do as good as great tailors in any city in America. Our assortment of children's clothing surpasses any thing of the kind ever brought to Memphis.

**DIXIE'S**

**SALOON**

**UNDER THE**

**New Memphis Theatre,**

**Jefferson Street,**

**MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE.**

**NOTE:**

The proprietor of the above saloon would be found at his post ready and willing to cater to the wants of his numerous friends and the public generally.

**New Advertisements.**

**GUY, ALDEN & McCREA,**

**Grocers, Cotton Factors,**

**AND GENERAL**

**Forwarding & Commission Merchants,**

**208 Front Street,**

**MEMPHIS, TENN.**

**CAPT. HARDY HARRIS,**

**L. C. ELSON & CO.**

**DEALERS IN**

**Boots, Shoes, Brogans, etc.**

**Local Advertisements.**

**FOR**

**Dry Goods of Every Description**

**LOW AND UNIFORM PRICES**

**HARDY & WILSON'S STORE,**

**Bolivar, Tenn.**

**Low and Uniform Prices**

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**Staple and Fancy Foreign and Domestic Dry Goods,**

**GENTLEMEN'S CLOTHING,**

**HATS, BOOTS, SHOES, SEWERS, ETC.**

**LADIES' DRESS GOODS, NOTIONS,**

**Hardware, Cutlery, Queensware, Tableware,**

**Together with all other articles usually found in a well stocked mercantile house. All of which they are determined to dispose of at as low a rate as any House in the Western District.**

**Call and examine our stock.**

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